FREE – TAKE ONE

The Romulus News

OCTOBER 31, 2003 – NOVEMBER 13, 2003 "the little paper" VOLUME 17 NUMBER 8

Timely Tidbits ...

Voter Registration Deadline Nears

Romulus residents who are not yet registered to vote must do so by 6 p.m. Monday, November 3, to be eligible to take part in the Special Election set for Tuesday, December 2.

For more information, call the city clerk's office: 734-942-7540.

"Live with Lambert"

Romulus Mayor Alan R. Lambert says he will be expanding his "open door" policy by hosting a series of "Live with Lambert" coffee sessions at various locations throughout the city. The program will give local residents an opportunity to share their ideas – as well as a cup of hot joe – with the city's top administrator.

"I am looking forward to meeting with our citizens regarding issues that are important to them," Lambert explained. "By spending these extra hours with the public, I can continue to provide improved services for our residents."

Lambert's first coffee will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, November 6, at the Whistle Stop restaurant, located at 36542 Goddard Road. The mayor will speak with individuals on a first-come, first-served basis. A sign-in sheet will be available.

For more information, contact the mayor's office: 734-942-7571.

Mosaic Youth Theatre Accepts 4 from RHS

Congratulations to Romulus High School Concert Choir students Christopher Green, Michael Hudson, LaTara Steele, and Jeremiah Yeager-Hudson on their recent acceptance into the Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit for the 2003–2004 season.

Mosaic Youth Theatre is a nationally acclaimed, nonprofit organization that develops young performing artists through comprehensive theatrical and musical training, and provides high-quality performances for audiences of all ages. ❑

City Council Passes a "Guidance" Resolution for Negotiations with Horse-racing Developer

By Kristi Stephens

At the request of its special counsel, the Romulus City Council has passed a resolution clarifying its position on land-use issues related to a horse-racing track that has been proposed by the Magna Entertainment Corporation.

The facility – to be called Michigan Downs – would be located on a 212-acre plot bounded by Vining Road on the west, Smith Road on the north, and Wick Road on the south. The property was recently purchased by the developer for about $28 million.

MEC's Phase I building plan calls for a 145,000-square-foot entertainment pavilion, tracks for thoroughbred racing, and various related structures such as barns and grooms quarters, as well as an automotive research & development/office building.

A *tentative* Phase II would involve additional retail/mixed-use development at the site, but MEC is not willing to commit to a second phase until:

- the first stage is completed, and
- marketing studies indicate that further development would be financially viable.

MEC's refusal to make a firm commit to Phase II has sparked questions regarding the property's current zoning, which is RC (Regional Center) – a district designed to "promote large-scale commercial and office developments" which are "planned to complement each other." Included within the RC district's permitted uses are "lounges, theaters, and entertainment establishments" – but the City's planning consultant has determined that a race track, *standing alone*, is not consistent with the "scale and type of use" intended for "entertainment establishments."

For this reason, special counsel Jerry Fischer, who has been negotiating with MEC on behalf of the City, asked the Council to pass a resolution giving him official "guidance" on what is and is not acceptable.

The resolution eventually considered by the Council stated (in part) the following:

"... the PDA Agreement and Site Plan must include either a provision for at least some meaningful portion of a mixed-use component ... as part of the first phase of the project, along with a general plan for future mixed-use development ... or, the PDA Agreement and Site Plan shall clarify the circumstances under which the mixed-use component shall be required as a future phase of the overall development (for example, a market analysis or other alternative). If the applicant is in disagreement with this Motion in terms of the uses permitted in the RC District, the applicant may file an application under the Zoning Ordinance provision for resolving disputes involving unspecified uses."

Before calling for a vote, Council heard remarks from Timothy Stoker, an MEC spokesperson, and Jim McAlpine, the company's president and CEO.

Stoker urged City Council *not* to pass the resolution.

"It is our position," he stated, "that [the resolutions] are not necessary."

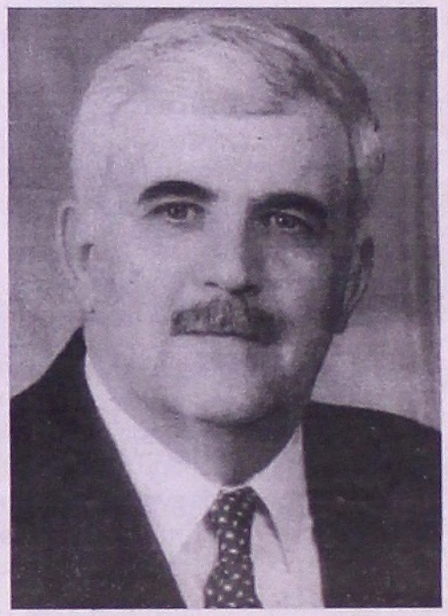
Stoker went on to explain MEC's belief that the Phase I proposal (consisting of a horseracing facility, entertainment pavilion, and R&D office) fits the City's current RC zoning concept with regard to both "mixed use" and "entertainment" without the need for Phase II. He reminded Council that people attend racing events for the primary purpose of being entertained, and also pointed out that the proposed pavilion would offer a variety of year-round amusements such as dining, concerts, and shows.

Further, as a demonstration of MEC's good faith, Stoker said that the company would forfeit a $1.25-million security bond to the City if MEC failed to develop a Phase II within 10 years.

After additional discussion, which included Fischer's official recommendation that a clarifying resolution be adopted to protect the City's interests, the Council voted to accept the proposed resolution by a vote of 4–2, with Councilpersons Bill Wadsworth, LeRoy Burcroff, Bill Crova, and Michael Prybyla in favor, and Councilpersons Charles Miller and Debbie Romak opposed. (Council chairman Randy Gear was not present for the vote.)

Afterward, Councilman Wadsworth made it a point to assure residents that the Council's approval of the "guidance" resolution was *not* an approval of the project itself.

"In no way, shape, or form am I voting on this to give approval to build this track, because obviously the people, on the second of December, will speak," he explained. "As far as I'm concerned, [the election regarding casino gambling and horse-racing] could make this resolution null and void.



Councilman Bill Wadsworth

"This is not approval of anything," he continued. "It's a recommendation from our attorney that, in the long run, [will allow us to protect] our interests and the people of the City of Romulus.

Councilman Burcroff concurred.

"December 2 is our special election. We're not voting on an issue; we're not giving approval of a racetrack. Our special counsel, Mr. Fischer, gives his legal opinion and asks us for direction. And that's what he's looking for in this ... motion."

Annual Auction Nets Cash for City

During the October 27 Council meeting, City Treasurer Pamela Morrison-Kersey reported that the City's annual auction – held on Saturday, October 25 – netted $49,893. The amount, said Morrison-Kersey, was an increase of about $3,000 over last year's totals.

Candidates Sought for Environmental Protection Board

Because the Romulus City Council will soon be appointing people to fill five expired-term positions on the Environmental Protection Board, Council members are urging residents who would like to serve on the Board to notify City Clerk Linda Choate of their interest. For more information, call 734-942-7540. ❑

Letters to the Editor

Editor's note: All letters to the editor MUST contain the writer's signature and a telephone number where he/she can be reached in order to verify the letter's authenticity.

Names will be withheld by request only in exceptional cases where, in our opinion, there is a legitimate reason to do so.

The Romulus News reserves the right to edit all letters for clarity and, if necessary, brevity.

Opinions expressed in the "Letters to the Editor" column are not necessarily shared by the staff of "the little paper."

A Unique Opportunity

Dear Editor:

In your October 17, 2003 issue, a letter from Mrs. Jan Lemmon asked, "What part of government doesn't he [Romulus Mayor Alan Lambert] understand?" I have to respond by saying it is very apparent that Mayor Lambert understands very well how government works, and obviously it's Mrs. Lemmon who doesn't have a clue.

The mayor is required to listen to all potential developers who want to present a project to our city. That's what we elected him for. He cannot close the door on developers before they have had an opportunity to make their presentation. That would be a detriment to our future.

And, just because he meets with developers, it doesn't mean that their project will be approved.

It appears to me that Mrs. Lemmon does not want to see our city grow, prosper, and improve; she wants to live in the past and not have our community flourish. She thrives on continuing to cause conflict within our community by sending her incorrect and misleading letters to your paper and making her ridiculous statements at council meetings only in an attempt to try to make the mayor look bad. Come on, we all know her real agenda, and it doesn't have to do with the issues at hand. ...

This city needs a recreational facility, new senior centers, and expanded services to equal those in surrounding communities – *and that can happen with additional revenue coming to our city from, for example, a casino, convention center, and/or racetrack.*

Romulus has a unique opportunity that no other communities have. I hope we take advantage of that so we fellow residents can have the same opportunities that our neighbors have.

Sincerely,
Geneva Hampton
Romulus

According to Webster ...

(Editor's note: The following letter is Romulus City Councilwoman Debbie Romak's response to a "Letter to the Editor" that appeared in the October 17, 2003 issue of The Romulus News.*)*

According to *Webster's Dictionary*, the word educate means to instruct; INFORM.

An attorney from the American Civil Liberties Union, Lida Rodriguez, once stated on CNN (national television), "We must educate the public." (The issue was living wills.) The term she preferred to use was "educate," not "inform," which is a preference of the same meaning. You would think that an American Civil Liberties Union attorney would know the appropriate term.

* * *

To Mr. Todd Hauter:

I offer a sincere public apology if my use of the word "educate" (a preference) rather than "inform" insulted your intelligence; that was not my intention. All elected officials have a responsibility to educate/inform the public on matters or issues that affect the community and its citizens. This includes future development, to be voted on by the people on December 2, 2003. Again, I am sorry that you don't agree with my word choice.

Regarding your remarks about the Airport Authority reducing Romulus's share of revenue by $600,000 a year: House Bill 4454/Public Act 680 of 2002 – not the Airport Authority – governs the distribution of airport parking tax revenues. The enactment of HB 4454 called for the annual distribution of such revenues in the following manner: $6 million to the State Aeronautics Fund; $1.5 million to the City of Romulus; and the remainder (in this case, $7.8 million of the total $15.3 million levied) to Wayne County. Information regarding a reduction to airport parking tax revenues has not been disseminated to the Romulus City Council as of yet. How does a resident know of a $600,000 reduction in airport parking tax revenues before the City Council does? You must have a good source.

I would also like to note that, in reviewing the bill, the schools have never received any of the revenue pertaining to the parking, so I hardly think that a reduction will throw them into a tailspin. But if, in fact, parking revenues are down so low that the projected revenues are not available, then perhaps it could cause some financial difficulties for the City.

As for your question, "Do you want to be 'educated' or 'informed'?" ... As an elected official, I must be educated/informed on all issues or matters that come before me. It gives me the ability to better serve the residents and the community, but – most importantly – it assists me in making good decisions.

Thank you for your perspective on my political agenda. I believe that I have always demonstrated a willingness and desire to serve, to the best of my ability, the community in which I live. I will confirm that I never close any political doors, including the up-and-coming 2005 election – which, by the way, is still two years away.

Sincerely,
Debbie Romak
Romulus City Council

Five Points, Not Four

(Editor's note: The following letter to Romulus City Planner Cynthia Lyon, AICP, is reprinted here at the request of its author.)

After watching the Planning Commission meeting last night on cable television, I wish to respond to one of the suggested plans for the area known as Five Points. One option presented was to close Ozga Road and have Four Points.

The original Village of Romulus was platted and recorded in 1836 and was known as Pullen's Corners, a name our City retained until the Civil War. The Pullen family first settled at Five Points and were instrumental in the development of the village.

The first school house, the present Historical Museum, was first located on Huron River Drive, just south of Five Points, in 1839.

In 1852, Samuel R. Kingsley operated the first general store at Ozga Road and Huron River Drive West. He was postmaster of Pullen Corners. The Kingsley House has been moved to the Historical Park to preserve its history.

The Romulus Union Church Society built their church on the corner of Ozga and Goddard in 1854. This historic church is now the Wesleyan Methodist Church. Legend has it that this church was a stop-off destination for slaves attempting to make their way to Canada during the Civil War.

The Holly, Wayne, and Monroe Railroad built its first depot on Grant Road, a half mile east of Five Points, in 1870.

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The Romulus News

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We are sorry, but we cannot guarantee the return of any photograph submitted to us, although every attempt will be made to do so.

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"Trash" Letter Hopes To Avoid "Discharge Fight" in House

State Representative Hoon-Yung Hopgood (D–Taylor) has joined his fellow party members – including House Democratic Leader Dianne Byrum (D–Onondaga) – in pushing to get two trash-related bills out of committee and onto the House Floor.

The Democrats have written a letter to Speaker of the House Rick Johnson (R–LeRoy) urging him to direct the Land Use and Environment Committee to schedule a hearing on House Bills 4098 and 4099, legislation that would curb the importation of out-of-state and Canadian trash. If no hearing is scheduled, the letter stated, the House Democratic Caucus will have no choice but to pursue a "discharge motion" to bring the bills to the House Floor for a vote.

"Since these bills were introduced in January of this year, more than 2.7 million tons of out-of-state and Canadian trash has been dumped in our communities," Hopgood said. "Items like car batteries, sewage sludge, asbestos, radioactive waste, and even illegal drugs are crossing our borders in the back of out-of-state trucks every day.

"Our citizens are tired of being a dumping ground. It's time *this* legislature stood up against the trash lobby, and for the people of Michigan."

State Representative Hoon-Yung Hopgood

The bills put forth by the House Democrats are:

- HB 4098, which would allow Michigan to reject trash from states that have a regulatory system less stringent than our own; and
- HB 4099, which would add returnable containers to the list of items prohibited from disposal in Michigan landfills. ❑

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Jr. Jazz – Tuesday
(10–12 yrs)
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Preteen Hip Hop – Monday
Preteen Acro – Tuesday
Preteen Jazz – Tuesday
Preteen Adv. Tap – Tuesday
Preteen Tap – Thursday
(13+ yrs)
Teen Ballet – Monday
Teen Hip Hop – Monday
Teen Jazz – Tuesday
Teen Acro – Wednesday
Teen Hip Hop – Thursday
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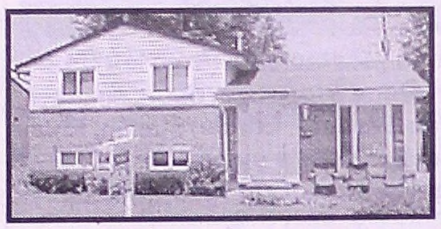

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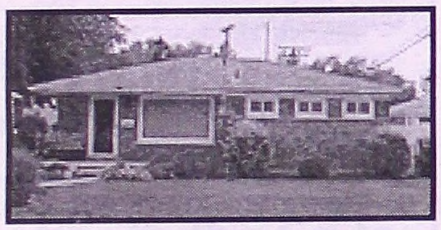

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37700 Castle • Romulus • $149,900
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School Board Honors Vidovic

Diane Vidovic is resigning after "twelve wonderful and rewarding years" at the Romulus Adolescent Health Center.

During its regular meeting of October 27, the Romulus Community Schools Board of Education honored Diane Vidovic, program director for the Romulus Adolescent Health Center, for her outstanding work with the community's youths.

Vidovic – who recently submitted a letter of resignation to the health center's administrator, the Oakwood Healthcare System – said that, although she has enjoyed "twelve wonderful and rewarding years" at the center, she has decided to "take some time to reconstitute before pursuing a new course."

The Board's resolution of commendation praised Vidovic for her strong advocacy for teen health services, as well as for her sincere and dedicated service as a social worker, mental health counselor, and health center director.

The resolution also commended Vidovic for her extraordinary efforts to keep the health center open during the 2001 state budget cuts.

During that difficult time, she hosted joint school/city "teen health" forums and sought help from the Romulus City Council, the Mayor's Drug Task Force, and the Romulus Community Schools. Additionally, Vidovic hosted local meetings with Senator Loren Bennett and then-Representative Raymond Basham, organized Romulus High School students for a rally on the Capitol steps, and attended Senate Appropriations Committee meetings.

Vidovic was also cited for her classroom presentations on subjects such as loss and grief, teen depression, and healthy life-styles.

"Diane Vidovic made major contributions to the children of Romulus," said district spokesperson Dick Kruse. "She will be missed by the entire Romulus educational community." ❑

High School Dance Students Perform

Instructor Deborah Wilson (right) helps RHS dance students (from left) Nina White, Alexis Fondrem, Rusty Harris, and Charese Ford prepare for a performance to "Sexy Daddy" by Destiny's Child.

"A Few Good Men" To Mentor Cory Students

"A Few Good Men" who'll be sharing their time with Cory Elementary students this year include: (from left) front – Rod Williams, Raymond Smith II, Wasi Sebin, John Barden, George Stubbs, Reverend Ernest Garrison, Michael Link, and Wade Cook; middle – James Bragg, James Carter, Kevin Warren, Aaron Barbara, Edmon Martin, Fritz Ditsch, Starlyn Carter, Glenn Hensley, and Herb Buckley; back – Orlando Page, Biron Paisley, Sr., Nick Curry, Andrew Wells, Jr., Malcolm Rachal, Ted Harris, Joe Little, Bruse Raczynski, Kahrah Noel, Eric Talley, Sr., Cody Barnes, Shannon Bratcher, and Damond Melchor.

Cory Elementary has developed an exciting new program for both students and parents. The school's "A Few Good Men" mentoring program will bring more than 30 fathers, grandfathers, and other supporters to Cory to work with students on a weekly basis.

"A Few Good Men" was devised by the school's parent coordinators, Reverend Rita Talley and Janice Barden, as well as social worker Sally Berger and Intervention Room specialist Wade Cook, as a way to encourage Cory students with their studies and also give them an opportunity to spend time with additional male role models. The mentors will be available to discuss all aspects of student life at Cory.

Principal Phyllis Adkins said she was very impressed with the large group who volunteered to take part in the school's new mentoring program.

"These men have volunteered to donate at least 30 minutes of their time weekly to help point the children of Cory in the right direction," Adkins stated. "This is certainly a wonderful commitment on the part of the mentors, and a sign of the strong support we receive from the Cory community."

To kick off the program, the mentors – many of whom are Romulus High School graduates – met for breakfast and then stayed throughout the morning to attend classes with students. The men took advantage of the opportunity to reminisce about their own educational experiences and, in several cases, renewed old childhood acquaintances.

All reported that they are looking forward to making a major difference in the lives of Cory's children. ❑

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Cory Elementary Initiates New "Reading at Home" Program

Phyllis Adkins, principal of Cory Elementary School, is asking parents and other caregivers to read with their children for 15 to 30 minutes each evening as part of a new "Reading at Home" program.

"We know how important reading is, and we need to do everything possible to increase student reading time," she noted.

Adkins said that the new program offers parents a number of tips for successfully encouraging reading at home. One such tip: Read aloud from the first few pages of a new book until the child becomes intrigued by the story, then leave it out within easy reach so that he/she can pick it up and continue on his/her own.

But perhaps the best tip for acquiring a new reading habit is to break an old habit at the same time.

"Turn off the TV," Adkins urged. "Use that time to take turns reading aloud with your child, and introduce as many new books as possible."

Of course, children will also continue to reinforce their reading skills at school. Students will be starting each day with a 15-minute silent-reading period, followed by a 30-minute study session on reading comprehension strategies. A "guest readers" segment – kicked off by Board of Education vice-president Cheryle Buckley and trustee Kenneth Mientkiewicz – will be another feature of the program. Contests such as Adkins's "1,000-page Summer Vacation Reading Challenge" also add to the fun.

According to Adkins, Cory has been chosen from among 800 schools nationwide to receive $1,500 worth of specialized hardcover reading books for the "Reading at Home" project. Another $9,000 in children's books is being donated by the Coca-Cola Company, and Burger King of Romulus is getting involved by collecting books for Cory's Book Exchange program.

Still other corporations are doing their part by offering incentives to young readers. Drawings will be held for rewards such as shopping trips to Borders with the principal (three $100 prizes), online shopping at Borders (twelve $25 prizes), and tickets to Six Flags amusement parks.

Additional incentives will include school assemblies recognizing outstanding young readers. ❑

Special guests attending Cory Elementary School's "Reading at Home" program dedication included: (from left) front – Sarah Howard (Reading Is Fundamental representative) and Tamarra Forrman-Smith (Coca-Cola Co. representative); back – Michael Woods (treasurer, Romulus Board of Education), Cheryle Buckley (Board vice-president), Aaron Yeatts (RIF representative), Ken Mientkiewicz (Board trustee), Phyllis Adkins (principal, Cory School), and Niema White (Board trustee).

Among those Cory Elementary students who met principal Phyllis Adkins's summer challenge to read 1,000 pages were: (from left) front – Brooke Tanner, Shavon Washington, Jasmine Harin, and Caitlyn Lefler; back – Kirstyn Slatinsky, Destiny Swanigan, Ammie Gordon, Krystal Wegrzyn, and Michelle Miller.

Letter to the Editor

continued from page 2

The original town hall was built in 1872 on the southeast corner of Grant Road and Huron River Drive.

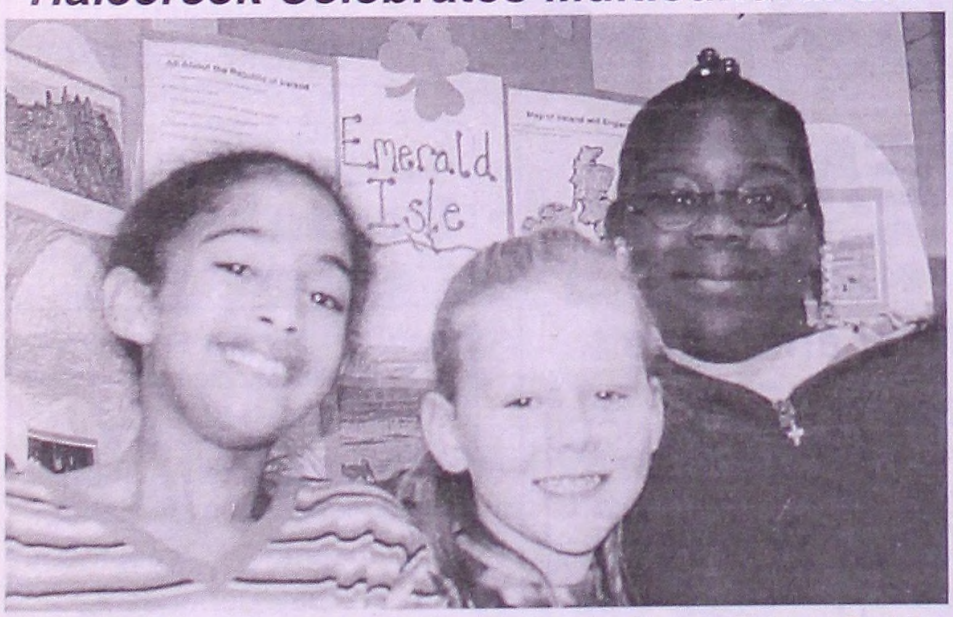
Each one of the "Points" has a historical significance to the growth of Romulus.

The area has been known as Five Points well over 100 years, and should be known as Five Points for at least another 100 years because of its historical importance to the City of Romulus. In the year 2003, we really have no right nor reason to tamper with it.

(If the plan was drawn up because it is a dangerous intersection, it would be interesting to know how many accidents have occurred at Five Points in the last 10 years. Belleville has retained its Five Points with traffic lights that allow an orderly flow of traffic.)

Sincerely,
Genevieve Dugan
Romulus ❑

Halecreek Celebrates Multiculturalism



Halecreek Elementary students (from left) Laina Barnes, Brittany Gaddis, and Selena Masters liked the "Ireland" display featured at the school's recent "multicultural" program.

Cory media specialist LaSonja Smith and some of her outstanding first-grade readers (from left: Kyle Hensley, Tayla Hall, Kaylan Carter, and Luke Hojanowski) show off some of their new books for reading at home.

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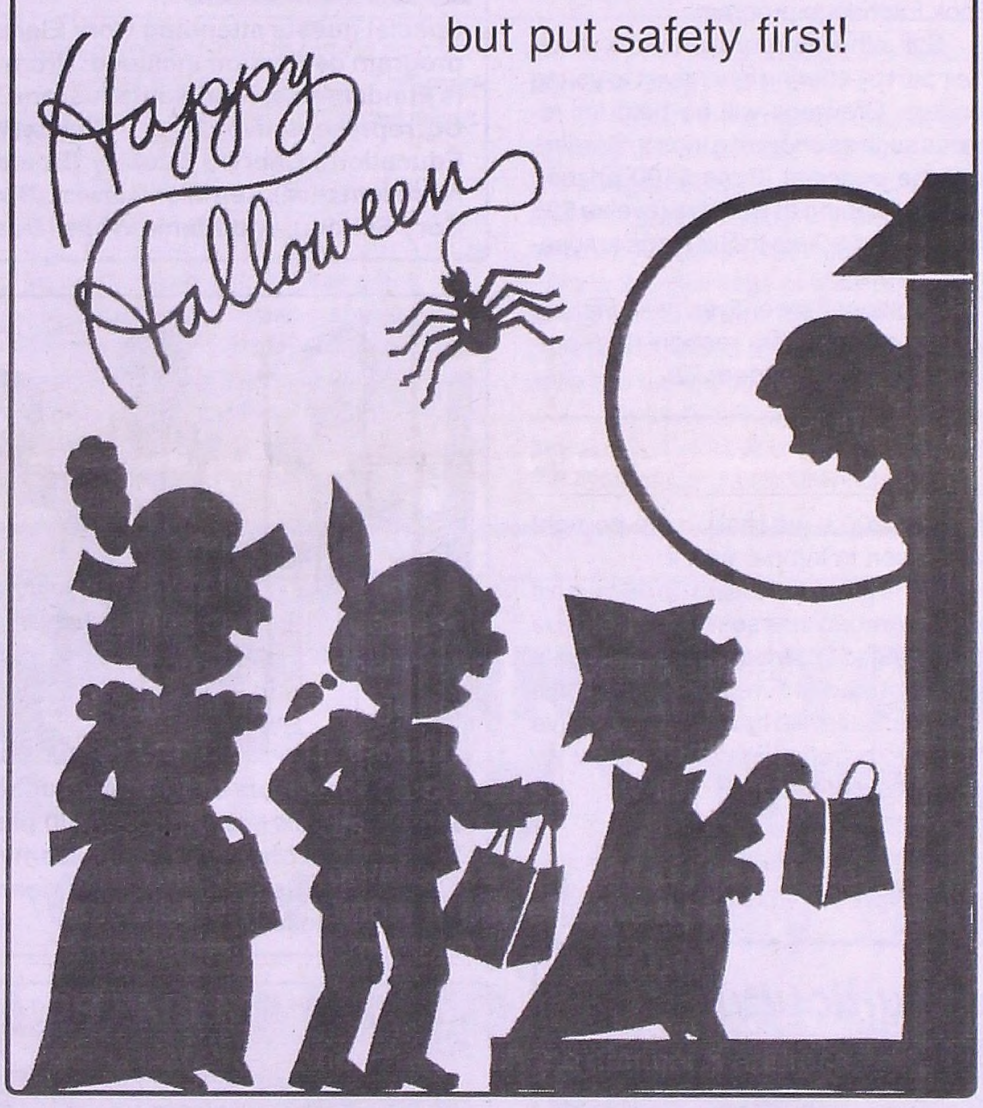

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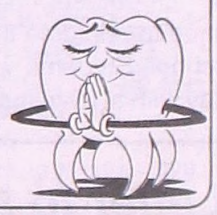

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HALLOWEEN
Safety Tips

FOR KIDS

- Trick-or-Treat before dark.
- Be cautious of animals & strangers.
- Carry a flashlight so you can see & be seen easily.
- Visit homes that you know & that have the porch light on.
- A face mask may obstruct your vision; use makeup instead.
- Accept your treats at the door & never go into a stranger's house.
- Wear a costume that makes it easy for you to walk, see, & be seen.
- Plan your Trick-or-Treat route ahead of time. Pick streets that are well lit.
- Trick-or-Treat with a parent, older brother, sister, or friends. Never travel alone.
- Don't hide or cross the street between parked cars or in the middle of the block.
- Walk, slither, & sneak on sidewalks; if there is no sidewalk,walk facing traffic.
- Keep away from open fires & candles. (Keep in mind that costumes can be extremely flammable.)
- Have a grown-up inspect your treats before eating. Don't eat candy if the package is open.
- Look LEFT, RIGHT, then LEFT AGAIN before crossing the street to check for cars, trucks, & low-flying brooms. Cross *only* at corners.
- Wear light-colored or reflective-type clothing so you are more visible. (Remember to put reflective tape on bikes, skateboards, & brooms, too!)

FOR PARENTS

- Your child should know his/her phone number & address.
- Dress children in shoes that fit. Large-size shoes make it easier to trip & fall.
- Limit the use of "weapons" as part of the costume. If you allow a weapon, be sure it is soft & flexible.
- When you inspect the treats, be sure they have not been tampered with & are safely sealed. Be careful with fruit, as punctures are easily missed.

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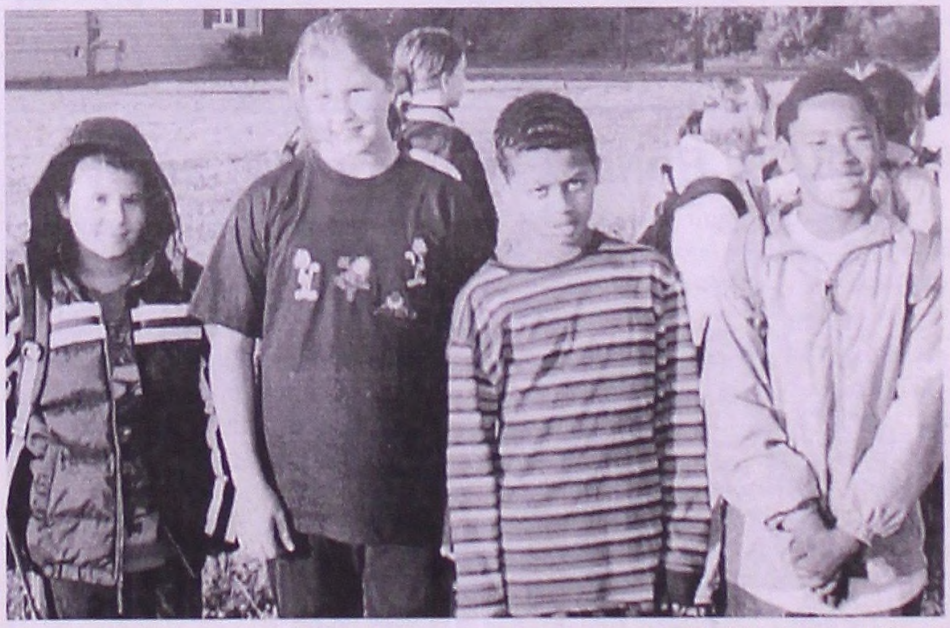
Around the District

Mom Debbie Woolford (back) enjoyed Wick Elementary's "Family Bingo Night" with her daughters, Shelby (left) and Tiffany. Alec Staten also enjoyed the program.

Hegira Programs staff member Connie Moore (second from left) was the guest speaker at a "School Success Strategies" workshop at Romulus Elementary. Attendees included (from left) Gloria Haywood, Selassica O'Flynn (school social worker), Vicki Thornton (and her children, Marcus, Elliott, and Octavia), Debbie Dunn, and Gretchen Notaro (learning specialist).



Barth Elementary students taking part in a recent "Walk to School Day" included (from left) Robert Bodis, Sheila Reeves, Josh Martinez, and Quincy Hubert.

Joint Project Mentors Teachers

District teachers attending a recent "mentoring" workshop at Romulus High School with (back, from left) Western Michigan University professors Dr. Mark Jennes and Dr. Cynthia Halderson included (from left) Alicia Del Toro, Barbara Knight, Linda Goulette, Heather Doane, and Erica Daman. Both Jennes and Halderson report that they are enjoying their work with the Romulus Community Schools' enthusiastic staff members.

A mentoring partnership between the Romulus Community Schools and Western Michigan University is already showing outstanding results. The program, funded by a $112,000 grant, is the second cooperative educational arrangement between the school district and WMU. (Romulus also serves as one of two sites in eastern Michigan where WMU students can complete their teaching internships.)

The new mentoring program is under the direction of Dr. Cynthia Halderson and Dr. Mark Jennes, both professors at Western. The two will conduct extensive interviews with both Romulus teachers and the interns they mentor throughout the school year.

"The State of Michigan requires that new teachers receive mentoring help for the first three years of their educational careers," explained district spokesperson Dick Kruse. "The Romulus school district has hired a significant number of new staff over the past several years."

In a report given during a recent mentoring meeting, Jennes noted, "The role of the mentor teacher is very important because, at the national level, one-third of beginning teachers leave the field after three years, and half leave by the fifth."

He added, "The mentor–mentee relationship should be like a teacher in-service workshop, where strengths/weaknesses and possible improvements are continuously discussed."

Halderson then described a systematic way for new teachers to take inventory of their teaching skills by noting student responses to their lessons. She also suggested that new teachers then discuss their results with their respective mentor teachers.

Altogether, about 40 Romulus teachers serve as mentors for the program. Western Michigan University will survey both the mentors and their mentees, then use their observations to improve the mentor-mentee relationship and refine the teacher education program at WMU.

EMU To Retire Grant Long's Jersey

Eastern Michigan University has announced that it will retire the jersey of Grant Long during an upcoming basketball game against Kent State, which will be played at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, December 2, at Convocation Center (799 North Hewitt Road, Ypsilanti).

Long – a Romulus High School alumnus – is one of the top-10 scorers and rebounders in EMU basketball history. He led the university to its first-ever MAC championship and appearance in the NCAA Tournament in 1986–87, and was named MAC Player of the Year that season.

In the 1988 NBA Draft, Long was selected as the 33rd overall pick by the Miami Heat. He appeared in all 82 games of the team's inaugural season and was named team MVP. It was the beginning of a long professional career that has featured more than 1,000 games, 9,500 points, and 6,000 rebounds.

Tickets for the EMU–Kent State game are available at the gate or by calling 734-487-2282 during regular business hours.

A Grant Long bobblehead will be given away to the first 1,000 fans at the gates. ❑

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Romulus Elementary School Hosts "Special Adult Day"

Earlier this month, students at Romulus Elementary were encouraged to invite a "special adult" to attend an appreciation program hosted by the school. More than 300 guests enjoyed a full program of activities, including a continental breakfast, picture sessions, and a special assembly.

Students taking part in Special Adult Day festivities found many ways to honor and entertain their visitors. The students read poems and essays about their favorite adults/role models, and various classes sang animated songs such as "Peanut Butter," "I Can Learn," "All That I Can Be," "Step Back Sally," "Lean on Me," and "Rock Around the Clock." The children also displayed a mural featuring drawings of their special guests.

The day concluded with the honorees visiting their young hosts' classrooms.

Principal Lynne Mossoian declared herself "very pleased" with the outstanding turnout and many positive comments received from the guests.

The "Special Adult Day" program was coordinated by Julie Kovar, Connie Watkins, Wesley Faulkner, and Roxanne Kucharski. ❑

Celeste Moore (holding microphone), a student in the classroom of first-grade teacher Lisa Ramandane (left), used the opportunity presented by Romulus Elementary School's recent "Special Adult Day" to sing the praises of her grandmother and thank her for a gift of very special boots.

Moms Stephanie Lynch (left) and Betty Banks were among the many special guests who enjoyed the days festivities.

"Special Adult" honorees attending the assembly in their honor included RHS Alumni Shannon Edwards (left) and Faith Piro.

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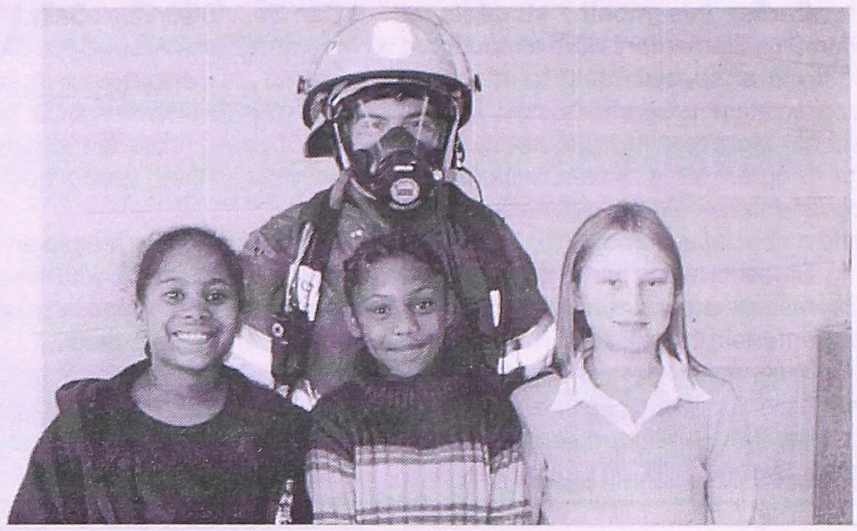
Romulus Elementary School Hosts "Fire Safety Day" Program

Romulus firefighters making "Fire Safety Day" presentations at Romulus Elementary School included Jason Pittman and "Fire Pup" (Mike Wojtylko).



Firefighter Pittman demonstrated his safety gear for the students, including (from left) Daria Jackson, Tiffany Brown, and Jenna Bragg.

ROMULUS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

36540 Grant Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174

REGULAR MEETING, OCTOBER 13, 2003

The Regular Meeting of the Romulus Board of Education held on Monday, October 13, 2003, was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Betty Lenossi.

Roll call showed all Board members present. All administrators were present.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Lenossi.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

10/03/1 Moved by Mientkiewicz supported by Buckley to approve the Agenda as presented. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

10/03/2 Moved by Buckley supported by Roscoe that the Board approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 22, 2003 as presented. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

Personnel Actions

EMPLOYMENT: Ed Horn, Director of Technology, Effective November 3, 2003.

10/03/3 Moved by Buckley supported by White that the Board of Education accept the employment of personnel as submitted by Mr. Edward Clark, Director of Human Resources. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

RETIREMENT: Marian Y. Hamel, Secretary, Special Services, Effective January 1, 2004; Last Day Worked – December 23, 2003.

10/03/4 Moved by White supported by Buckley that the Board of Education accept the retirement of personnel as submitted by Mr. Edward Clark, Director of Human Resources. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

FYI – TERMINATION: Rebecca Green, Bus Driver, Transportation, Effective October 2, 2003.

Bills for Payment

10/03/5 Moved by Buckley supported by Roscoe that the Board approve the Bills for Payment as presented by Mr. William A. Routhier, Director of Business and Operations. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Presentation – Media – RHS

Mrs. Alberta Garrett appeared before the Board of Education outlining the goals and objectives of the Media Center at Romulus High School. Also in attendance were Mrs. Rosalie Berlinn and Mrs. Leslie McCurdy.

Participating Resolution – Michigan School Readiness Program

10/03/6 Moved by White supported by Frayer that the Board of Education adopt the attached Participating Resolution for the 2003–2004 Michigan School Readiness Program State Aid. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Unofficial Count

Mr. Edward Clark, Director of Human Resources, presented the Board of Education with unofficial enrollment figures for September 2002, February 2003, and September 2003, which reflect an increase in enrollment of 32 students from September to September.

Financial Picture – State of Michigan

Superintendent Joel R. Carr informed the Board of the status of funding at the State level, which appears to show a possible reduction of $185 per pupil for the 2003–2004 school year.

Purchase of Buses

10/03/7 Moved by Mientkiewicz supported by White that the Board of Education approve the purchase of two (2) 53-passenger Special Needs buses from Capital City Bus Sales for $132,988.00. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Landscaping – High School

10/03/8 Moved by Roscoe supported by Mientkiewicz that the Board of Education accept the bid from Land Vision for $15,310.00 to landscape areas around Romulus High School. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Communications and Expressions from the Public

There were no communications from the public.

Items of Interest from the Superintendent

Mr. Joel R. Carr, Superintendent, shared the following items of interest with members of the Board of Education: 1) Wick Elementary School Annual Report; 2) Barth Elementary School Newsletter; 3) MHSAA – Communication; 4) Thank You – Sheila Stasak; 5) Delegate Assembly Handbook; 6) Thank You – Romulus Middle School Football Program; 7) The Talon; 8) Wick Elementary School Newsletter; 9) Middle Cities Annual Report; 10) The Merriman Star; 11) Thank You – Debbie Dick; 12) Halecreek Elementary School Newsletter; 13) Romulus Elementary School Newsletter; 14) Romulus Elementary School Presents; 15) Romulus Middle School Annual Report; 16) Romulus High School Parent Newsletter; 17) 2002–2003 School/Community Committee's Year-end Review; 18) Parent Workshop – Barth Elementary School; and 19) Communication to Van Buren Board of Education.

QUESTIONS AND/OR CONCERNS OF BOARD MEMBERS:

Mrs. Celeste Roscoe distributed copies of proposed revised policies to be reviewed by Board members prior to the next regular meeting. The Board of Education selected November 17, 2003 as a tentative date for a special meeting to revisit initiatives of the district. Mrs. Roscoe further commended the Middle School football coaches for competition and academic excellence. Mr. Kenneth Mientkiewicz addressed concerns over behavior of students at a Junior Varsity football game, no security, and announcements being made over the P.A. system. Mr. Michael Woods asked about the status of the Nike Contract, and Superintendent Carr stated that the district would follow within the guidelines of the MHSAA. Mr. Woods stated that he was at the High School for Tae-Kwon-Do and behavior of students was bad. Mr. Woods further suggested that the Board of Education schedule a study session to discuss Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) objectives. Mrs. Niema White informed the Board of a Baby Shower that is scheduled for October 25, 2003 at 11 a.m. for Helping Hand Thrift Shop, and that is being coordinated by Ms. Phyllis Wilkerson and Ms. Betty Santo. Mrs. Betty Lenossi informed the Board that Mr. Dick Kruse would be taking picture retakes at the next Board meeting. Mrs. White stated that she felt participation with Nike would be a positive gesture.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

10/03/9 Moved by Mientkiewicz supported by Buckley that the Board of Education convene into Executive Session for the purpose of negotiations. Roll call vote: White, Mientkiewicz, Roscoe, Woods, Frayer, Buckley, and Lenossi. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The Board convened into Executive Session at 7:28 p.m.

10/03/10 Moved by Buckley supported by Roscoe to reconvene into Regular Session. Roll call vote: White, Mientkiewicz, Roscoe, Woods, Frayer, Buckley, and Lenossi. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The Board reconvened into Regular Session at 7:58 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

10/03/11 Moved by Buckley supported by White to adjourn. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
April Frayer, Secretary
Romulus Board of Education

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Donors of $500 or more will be recognized on a memorial plaque.
Donors of $25 or more will be recognized in a "book of friends."

Community Calendar

- **Sauerkraut, Fish Dinners at St. Paul's Church** – St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church (located at the corner of Craig and Ellis streets in New Boston) is inviting everyone to stop in between 5 and 7 p.m. on ***Thursday, November 6,*** for a buffet-style dinner of sauerkraut, roast pork, squash, mashed potatoes, gravy, applesauce, beets, green beans, rolls, beverage (coffee, milk, or water), and dessert (a slice of pie), and from 5 to 7 p.m. on ***Friday, November 7,*** for a delicious fish dinner featuring baked or fried cod, fries, macaroni & cheese, vegetable, cole slaw, roll, dessert, and beverage. (Carry-out also available.) Admission for the sauerkraut buffet is $8 for adults, $5 for children ages 5 to 12. Cost of the fish dinners is just $7 for a two-piece dinner, or $8 for a three-piece meal. For more information, call the Church at 734-753-9048.
- **Craft Show at Progressive Hall** – The Romulus Progressive Club will host a holiday craft show at Progressive Hall (11580 Ozga) on Friday, November 14, from 4:30 to 10 p.m.; Saturday, November 15, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sunday, November 16, from 11 to 3 p.m. Highlights of the event will include a prize drawing for a grandfather clock (Sunday at 2 p.m.). All are welcome.
- **Crafters, Vendors Sought for Barth Fair** – Barth Elementary School is looking for crafters and vendors to participate in its first annual Fall Craft and Vendor Show, to be held at the school (38207 Barth Road) on Saturday, November 15, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, or to obtain a registration packet, call the school (734-532-1250) and ask for parent coordinators Barb Snyder or Cecilia Burcroff.
- **Teen Pregnancy Prevention Group Meets** – The next meeting of the Romulus Teen Pregnancy Prevention Partnership (RTP3) will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 19, in Room 507 at Romulus High School (9650 South Wayne Road). All meetings are open to the public.
- **Romulus Democratic Club** – The Romulus Democratic Club meets at the UAW Hall/Local #174 (29841 Van Born Road) on the third Thursday of every month (next meeting: November 20) at 7 p.m. For more information, call (734-941-3513) or page (734-360-2232) Jack H. Trumble, Club President.
- **Romulus High School Alumni Basketball Game** – Former Romulus High School basketball players are invited to participate in an alumni game to be held at the High School on Wednesday, November 26, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Community members are welcome to come out and watch the fun, free of charge! For more information, contact Nate Oats, RHS basketball coach, at 734-532-1170, or Herb Buckley, director of the City of Romulus Parks and Recreation Department, at 734-942-6852.
- **"Table Settings for the Holidays"** – The Romulus Literary Club invites you to come and experience its festive "Table Settings for the Holidays" display, set for 12 to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, December 3, at Romulus Progressive Hall (11580 Ozga). You're sure to come away with plenty of ideas for your own gatherings! A suggested donation of $2 to $5 per person will benefit "First Step" – an organization for victims of domestic violence and/or sexual abuse.
- **Christian Youth Group Meets** – The Youth Group at St. Aloysius Catholic Church meets at least twice monthly to socialize, have fun, and explore/build members' relationship with God and one another. For more information about the group, which is open to all area teens in grades eight and up, call Julie Wadsworth at 734-941-3340 any weekday between 7:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., or e-mail her at juliewads@yahoo.com.
- **Romulus Church of God Announces Service Times** – Romulus Church of God (located at 8770 South Wayne Road) invites the public to attend their weekly services (Sundays at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Wednesdays at 7 p.m.) as well as their children's programs: Kids for Christ (Sundays at 10:30 a.m.) and Kids Praise (Saturdays from 12 to 2 p.m.). For info, call 734-729-7243.
- **Women's Chorus Seeks New Members** – County Connection Chorus, a women's *a capella* group affiliated with Sweet Adelines, meets each Tuesday at 7 p.m. at UAW Local #898 (8975 Textile Road, Ypsilanti). Women interested in receiving free vocal lessons are encouraged at attend. The chorus specializes in four-part barbershop harmony with a repertoire that includes Broadway classics, pop, gospel, and barbershop standards. For further information, visit www.sweetadelines.org or call 734-480-8843.

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174–0038; FAX it to us at 734-992-2052; or call 734-941-1907

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Sassy Seniors

By Mary E. Clark

Special thanks to Linda Norman, senior citizens program coordinator for the City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation, for contributing information to this issue's "Sassy Seniors" column. (For more information about events at the Romulus Senior Center, located at 36515 Bibbins, please call 734-955-4120.)

Annual Registration for Commodities

Commodities recipients who have not yet completed their annual registration should do so right away in order to avoid being removed from the list in November. For your convenience, the Center is accepting registrations every weekday during regular business hours except on distribution day itself (the third Thursday of the month).

Senior-citizen Clubs

Local senior citizens looking to make new friends are invited to join one or both of the clubs that meet at the Romulus Senior Center on a regular basis.

Club #1, which gets together each Tuesday at 11 a.m., holds potlucks, "does lunch" at area restaurants, hosts parties, plays bingo and other games, and schedules seasonal outings.

The Romulus Senior Social Club, a new group already boasting 99 members, levies yearly dues of $5 to help cover costs related to special trips, parties, and other events. Meeting dates are announced in the Romulus Senior Center's monthly newsletter, available at no charge by calling 734-955-4120 and asking to placed on the mailing list.

Special Trips

Seniors interested in more information about these or other special trips that have been planned by the Romulus Senior Center should call Linda Norman.

- ***Blue Chip Casino*** (November 12–13; $99);
- ***Belterra Casino Resort*** (November 12–14; $185);
- ***Soaring Eagle Casino*** (November 15; $26);
- ***Vienna Boys Choir*** (November 29; $79);
- ***Turkeyville Dinner Theater*** (December 2; $59);
- ***Greektown Casino*** (December 31; $25); and
- ***Little River Casino*** (December 31–January 1; $169).

Note: Deposits – due at the time of sign-up – reserve your seat. For day trips, full payment is due at least two weeks before departure. For overnight trips, full payment is due a minimum of 30 days before departure.

Regular Programs

Besides the many special activities offered at the Romulus Senior Center, a number of regularly scheduled free or low-cost programs are also open to local senior citizens. They include:

- ceramics (Mondays, 1 p.m.),
- bunco (Tuesdays, 1 p.m.),
- Senior Social Club (second Tuesday of each month, 2 p.m.)
- bingo (Wednesdays, 1 p.m.),
- "fun night" (Wednesdays, 5 p.m.),
- pinochle (Thursdays, 12:30 p.m.),
- quilting (Thursdays, 7 p.m.).

Mini Checkup

Susan Corser will be at the Senior Center at 9 a.m. on Thursday, November 6, to do free blood-sugar, blood-pressure, and oximeter readings for Romulus senior citizens.

Also on hand will be a foot doctor who accepts Medicare and most other insurances. (HMOs, HAP, and Medicaid are *not* accepted.)

Sign up at the Center.

Exercise Classes

Low-impact exercise classes (can be done from a chair) are being held at the Senior Center each Wednesday and Friday from 10 to 11 a.m. Stop in at or call the Center to place your name on the sign-up sheet.

Note: The Romulus Senior Center *strongly* recommends that seniors consult a physician before beginning any new exercise program.

Haircuts

The Romulus Senior Center's next haircut date is set for Monday, November 17, beginning at 9 a.m. If you would like to take advantage of this affordable ($5) program, call the Center to make an appointment.

Note: Haircut clients are asked to wash their hair before coming to their appointments, as the Center does not have the necessary facilities.

TeleCare Program Available

The Romulus Senior Center's TeleCare program provides seniors with daily phone reassurance at no cost. To learn more, call the Center's friendly staff.

Hot Lunches

Just a reminder that the Romulus Senior Center serves a hot lunch at 11:30 a.m. each weekday for only $1.75. Call at least 24 hours in advance to make your reservation.

Meals on Wheels

The Romulus Senior Center is looking for volunteers to help with the "Meals on Wheels" program for the homebound. Flexible hours available. For more information, call Pat at 734-942-6852. ❑

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BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you are a resident of Romulus, *The Romulus News* will be happy to print an announcement of your new addition (child or grandchild). If possible, please enclose a photograph of your new arrival. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

THE ROMULUS NEWS
P.O. Box 74038
Romulus, MI 48174-0038

Baby's Name _____
Birthdate _____ Time _____
Weight _____ Length _____
Birthplace _____
Parents _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Siblings _____
_____
_____
Maternal Grandparents _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Paternal Grandparents _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions):
_____

Attach any additional information concerning the birth to this form.

ENGAGEMENT/WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you, or your parents, are residents of Romulus, *The Romulus News* will be happy to print an announcement of your engagement or wedding. If possible, please enclose a photograph. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

THE ROMULUS NEWS
P.O. Box 74038
Romulus, MI 48174-0038

Bride's Name _____
City _____ State _____
Groom's Name _____
City _____ State _____
Bride's Parents _____
City _____ State _____
Groom's Parents _____
City _____ State _____
Bridesmaids _____
Groomsmen _____
Date of Engagement _____
Date of Wedding _____
Place _____
City _____ State _____
Reception _____
City _____ State _____
Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions):
_____

Attach any additional information concerning the wedding or engagement to this form.

Obituaries

Mary Earle

Mary Earle of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Thursday, October 16, 2003, at the age of 92.

Mary – born in River Rouge, Michigan, on Wednesday, August 23, 1911 – was a member of the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers. She attended St. Aloysius Catholic Church (Romulus) and was a former member of St. Stephen Catholic Church (New Boston, MI).

Among those surviving Mary are her husband of 65 years, Willard Earle; 3 children, Daniel (Nancy) Earle (Ann Arbor, MI), Michael Earle, and Mary Ann (Richard) Wildman (Loveland, CO); a brother, George Ferguson (River Rouge, MI); 4 grandchildren; and 3 great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Daniel and Mary Ann (Docherty) Ferguson; and 3 sisters, Elizabeth O'Rourke, Catherine Siembiec, and Matilda Zelasko.

A funeral service was held on Monday, October 20, at St. Stephen Church, with Father Alexander J. Wytrwal officiating. Cremation rites were accorded, with interment at Michigan Memorial Park (Flat Rock).

Arrangements were made by Crane Funeral Home (Romulus).

Donald Owen Hudson

Donald Owen Hudson – a former resident of Romulus, Michigan – passed away on Thursday, October 9, 2003, at the age of 46.

Donald was the beloved son of the late Owen and Janette Hudson; dearest brother of Mary Carson, Irene Kubicki, Richard Ditzek, Joseph Ditzek, Kirk Hudson, Sherrill Reed, and the late Sylvia Clare; dearest uncle of Kevin and Jon Reed and the late Joseph Reed; and dear friend of Betty and Carl McCuiston and Harriet Stouffer. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

A funeral service was held on Tuesday, October 14, at R.C. Aleks & Son Funeral Home.

Russel L. Hurlburt

Russel L. Hurlburt of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Monday, October 20, 2003. He was 72 years old.

Russel – born in Gladwin, Michigan, on Sunday, November 9, 1930 – served his country in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean Conflict. A member of the Romulus Wesleyan Church and a past president of the Romulus Kiwanis Club, he enjoyed fishing and hunting.

Surviving Russel are his daughter, Marcia Hurlburt (Romulus); 4 sisters, Grace (Bill) Goldsmith (Comins, MI), June Hurlburt (Romulus), Ardith (Dan) Bailey (Rose City, MI), and Helen (Robert) Walton (Webberville, MI); and a grandson, Christopher Hurlburt (Romulus).

Among those predeceasing him were his parents, Hugh and Alma (Wise) Hurlburt, and a brother, Ruben Hurlburt.

A funeral service was held on Friday, October 24, at the Romulus Wesleyan Church, with Pastor Steve Adams officiating. Interment was at Edwards Township Cemetery (West Branch, MI).

Arrangements were made by Crane Funeral Home (Romulus).

Eugene Welch

Eugene Welch of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Saturday, October 11, 2003, at the age of 57.

Eugene – born on Friday, April 26, 1946, in Logan County, West Virginia – served his country in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam Conflict. His hobbies included both hunting and fishing.

Among those surviving Eugene are his mother, Hester D. (Hager) Welch (Romulus); a daughter, Heather (Michael) King (Cape Coral, FL); a son, Eric Welch (Romulus); 2 sisters, Lucille (Glen) Hensley (Cookville, TN) and Rosalie (Dave) Hays (Tecumseh, MI); and 3 grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his father, Ernest Welch; a brother, David Welch; and a sister, Nancy Welch.

A funeral service was held on Tuesday, October 14, at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus), with Pastor Marvin Hawbaker (Calvary Baptist Church, Romulus) officiating. Burial was at Romulus Memorial Cemetery.

Wedding Bells

Jeremy and Melissa (Atherton) Ison

Congratulations to Jeremy C. and Melissa D. (Atherton) Ison, who were married on Friday, August 29, 2003.

The couple, who had been engaged since May, exchanged their vows at Taylor Center Baptist Church.

Standing up with Jeremy were groomsmen John Perry, Jim McCoy, Brad Byrd, Kenny Blevins, and Mark Atherton.

Melissa was attended by bridesmaids Maria Carlisle, Tina Collins, Kristina Bush, Monica Atherton, and Jessie Ison.

A reception was held at the Ramada Inn of Taylor immediately followed the ceremony.

Jeremy is the son of Chuck Ison of Hawaii and Joan Ison of California. Melissa's parents are Harry and Janet Atherton of Romulus, Michigan.

Melissa and Jeremy Ison

The newlyweds currently reside in Redford, Michigan.

Romulus School/Community Committee Remains Active

Phyllis Adkins, chairperson of the Romulus School/Community Committee, reports that the group has been active throughout the school year.

The group has studied a number of issues, including better ways to welcome parents of new students, provide training for parent coordinators, and team parent coordinators with school social workers, learning specialists, and resource teachers.

Adkins also discussed the committee's existing five-year plan for continuing with additional improvements. Past accomplishments include the revamping of the school–parent–child compact and advising school officials about parent preferences for after-school tutoring and activities.

Recent meetings of the group have focused on things that parent coordinators can do to provide a place where other parents can join them for informal discussions about school matters. The meetings also stressed involving parents in educational activities such as presentations, curriculum reviews, school improvement items, and social activities.

The School/Community Committee works to increase parent participation in the Romulus Community Schools. Last year, 1,500 parents donated over 9,500 hours of time to district schools. Committee members include: (from left) front – Glenn Helmsley, Tonya Cofield, Salley Berger, Wendy Bloom, Celeste Roscoe (Board trustee), Dorothy West, Gretchen Notaro, and Debbie Juriga; back – Cherryl Brackney, Herb Buckley, Monika Reynolds, Ken Mientkiewicz (Board trustee), Patty Vardy, Mel Kimbrough, Phyllis Adkins, Dee Raub, Janice Barden, Marge Olson, and Sharon Mitchell.

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